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(54) Name of Invention:

Cleaning Method for Silicon Wafer

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Specifications

Name of Invention

Cleaning Method for Silicon Wafer

- Claims
- A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous (1) solution that contains 0.1-20 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with 0.5- 25 wt% nitric acid that is used as an oxidizing agent.

- (2) A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is further characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous solution that contains 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen peroxide that is used as an oxidizing agent.
- (3) A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is further characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous solution that contains 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with oxidizing gas bubbles that are mixed into the solution to be used as an oxidizing agent.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

Industrial Field of Application

This invention pertains to a cleaning method designed to provide a high level of cleanliness along the surface of a silicon wafer.

Prior Art

In recent years, the high level of integration within devices has brought a strong demand for an improved level of cleanliness along the surface of the silicon wafers that are used as substrates for these devices.

When minute contaminants (also referred to as particles) exist along the surface of a silicon wafer, such as silicon particles, dust, etc., this can result in disconnections and shorts along the wires within a device, and in cases where metallic contaminants exist such as transition metals, other problems can arise such as the occurrence of defects along the oxidation inductive lamination layer, as well as a drop in the lifetime of the device. For this reason, when a cleaning process is conducted for the purpose of removing these contaminants, it is also necessary to prevent contamination during the cleaning process.

Recently, the following methods have been used for cleaning silicon wafers: (1) a method in which cleaning is conducted using a diluted hydrogen fluoride solution, (2) a method in which cleaning is conducted using a mixed solution of either hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide, and (3) a method in which cleaning is conducted using a mixed solution of ammonia and hydrogen peroxide. The cleaning liquid used in each of these cleaning methods contains water and a highly pure form of chemicals designed to maximize the reduction of minute particle contaminants and transition metal contaminants.

Among the previous methods noted above, method (1) is capable of dissolving a natural oxide film with a normal thickness of 10Å on a silicon wafer surface, and while this method is highly effective at removing metallic contaminants within the oxide film, it still presents some difficulty when it comes to reducing the level of minute particle contaminants.

Method (2) is able to use a high level of dissolution capability with respect to the metallic contaminants contained within the sulfuric acid, but it is incapable of dissolving an oxide film. For this reason, it is highly effective when it comes to removing metallic contaminants located on top of an oxide film, but it has very little effect when it comes to removing metallic contaminants that are located within an oxide film or along the interface between an oxide film and silicon.

Since method (3) works to dissolve the silicon itself, it is highly effective at removing metallic contaminants located on top of the silicon layer. However, due to the fact that the oxide film that is generated within the basic cleaning solution can easily become embedded with the metallic contaminants, etc., that exist within the cleaning solution, there is a high possibility that the silicon wafer will become contaminated once again. However, due to the fact that this method is highly effective at removing minute particles, it is widely used among wafer manufacturers and device manufacturers.

In addition, as a method for resolving the problems experienced with the prior methods noted above, the so-called Slight Etch method was introduced in which a silicon wafer is cleaned by being dipped into a mixed solution of 60 wt% nitric acid and a maximum of 0.1 wt% hydrogen fluoride. (Ritsuo Takizawa, et al., "Extended Abstracts of Solid State Devices and Materials, 1988, P. 475)

However, highly pure nitric acid, which is referred to as semiconductor grade nitric acid, still contains ppb-order or sub-ppb-order metallic contaminants such as AI, Ca, Cu, Fe, K, Na, Zn, etc. Accordingly, there is a high concentration of metallic contaminants within cleaning solutions that contain a high concentration of nitric acid, such as 60 wt%. Furthermore, when a cleaning tank made of quartz glass is used, the metallic impurities within the quartz glass become eluted into the solution, causing the concentration to gradually increase.

Also, with the high oxidation strength of highly concentrated nitric acid, an oxide film forms on the surface of silicon wafers, and the metallic contaminants within the cleaning solution can easily become

embedded within this oxide film. Therefore, even when the Slight Etch method is applied, there is a limit to the level of high purification that takes place with regard to the silicon wafers.

Problem to Be Solved by the Invention

A method for evaluating the purity of silicon wafer surfaces is one in which the lifetime (hereinafter referred to as the recombination lifetime) is investigated using the microwave reflection method. Using this method, the inventors have evaluated the purity of silicon wafers that were cleaned according to each type of method available. The results showed that in cases where Fe is included in the cleaning solution during cleaning operations in which a mixed solution of ammonia and hydrogen peroxide is used, contamination occurs along the silicon wafer surface at a level of approximately 8 x 10¹¹ atoms/cm² even when the Fe amount is very low at 0.5 ppb. It is further understood that this causes a drop in the recombination lifetime. (Otsuka, et al., The 34th Semiconductor and Integrated Circuit Technology Symposium, Preliminary Findings, 1988, P. 37)

The objectives of this invention are as follows: to significantly reduce the level of minute particle contaminants as well as metallic contaminants such as Fe when cleaning silicon wafers; to eliminate quality problems such as the occurrence of defects along the oxidation inductive lamination layer, as well as drops in lifetime; and to obtain a highly pure silicon wafer that will prevent degradation of electrical properties when used in devices.

An outline of this invention follows.

- (1) A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous solution that contains 0.1 20 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with 0.5 25 wt% nitric acid that is used as an oxidizing agent.
- (2) A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is further characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous solution that contains 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen peroxide that is used as an oxidizing agent.
- (3) A method for cleaning a silicon wafer is further characterized by a cleaning liquid comprised of an aqueous solution that contains 0.05 10 wt% hydrogen fluoride during the silicon wafer cleaning process, along with oxidizing gas bubbles that are mixed into the solution to be used as an oxidizing agent.

This invention is designed to minimize the amount of additives for the purpose of significantly reducing the level of impurities in a cleaning solution when a cleaning operation is conducted for silicon wafers. In addition, a cleaning solution with a superior level of cleaning capability is used. Specifically, this invention calls for an oxidizing agent to be added to a highly acidic aqueous solution containing a minimal amount of fluorine ions. Furthermore, as the oxide film along the silicon wafer surface is dissolved, an etching capability is provided for the silicon, making it possible to effectively remove metallic contaminants such as Fe, etc. Claim (1) notes that a minimal amount of nitric acid is used as an oxidizing agent, whereas Claim (2) notes that a minimal amount of hydrogen peroxide is used, and Claim (3) notes that an oxidizing gas is used.

According to this invention, the respective concentrations of hydrogen fluoride, nitric acid, and hydrogen peroxide within the cleaning solution are given in weight percentages of HF, HNO₃, and H₂O₂. In Claim (3), it is possible to use an oxidizing gas that contains oxygen as well as nitrous oxide (dinitrogen monoxide). Furthermore, an ultrapure form of water is used as a solvent.

In Claim (1), given less than 0.1 wt% of hydrogen fluoride and less than 0.5 wt% of nitric acid, the removal effect with regard to the metallic contaminants is insufficient. If the hydrogen fluoride concentration is increased to exceed 20 wt%, a trend is recognized in which the amount of minute particle contaminants increases along the surface of the silicon wafers. Furthermore, if the nitric acid concentration is increased to exceed 25 wt%, there is an excessive amount of etching along the silicon surface, resulting in a defective wafer surface with a cloudy appearance. Thus, if the maximum concentration of hydrogen fluoride is set to 20 wt% and the maximum concentration of nitric acid is set to 25 wt%, there is no substantial problem with regard to the concentration of impurities that become intermixed from the chemicals.

Therefore, the concentration of hydrogen fluoride has been set to a range of 0.1 - 20 wt%, and that of nitric acid has been set to a range of 0.5 - 25 wt%. Note that if the cleaning solution temperature is allowed to increase beyond the required level, this will cause the hydrogen fluoride as well as the water and nitric acid to escape in the form of steam and may result in a cleaning solution that falls outside the scope prescribed by the invention. Furthermore, increasing the temperature requires more time, which could result in a significant loss of productivity. Therefore, the preferred maximum temperature is 80° C.

In Claim (2), given less than 0.05 wt% of hydrogen fluoride and less than 0.05 wt% of hydrogen peroxide, the removal effect with regard to the metallic contaminants is insufficient. If the hydrogen fluoride concentration is increased to exceed 10 wt%, a trend is recognized in which the amount of minute particle contaminants increases along the surface of the silicon wafers. Furthermore, if the hydrogen peroxide concentration is increased to exceed 10 wt%, there is an excessive amount of etching along the silicon surface, resulting in a defective wafer surface with a cloudy appearance. Thus, if the maximum concentration of hydrogen fluoride is set to 10 wt% and the maximum concentration of hydrogen peroxide is set to 10 wt%, there is no substantial problem with regard to the concentration of impurities that become intermixed from the chemicals.

Therefore, the concentration of hydrogen fluoride has been set to a range of 0.05 - 10 wt%, and that of hydrogen peroxide has been set to a range of 0.05 - 10 wt%. Note that if the cleaning solution temperature is allowed to increase beyond 80°C, this will cause uneven cleaning such that pits may form on the silicon wafer surface after the heat treatment is conducted. Therefore, the preferred maximum temperature is 80°C.

In Claim (3), given less than 0.05 wt% of hydrogen fluoride and no intermixing of oxidizing gas bubbles, the removal effect with regard to the metallic contaminants is insufficient. If the hydrogen fluoride concentration is increased to exceed 10 wt%, the amount of minute particle contaminants increases along the surface of the silicon wafers, and at the same time, the etching amount becomes excessive, resulting in a defective wafer surface. Thus, if the maximum concentration of hydrogen fluoride is set to 10 wt%, there is no substantial problem with regard to the concentration of impurities that become intermixed from the chemicals. Furthermore, since a highly pure form of an oxidizing gas can be relatively easily obtained which has a very low concentration of impurities, this poses no problem.

Therefore, the concentration of hydrogen fluoride has been set to a range of 0.05 – 10 wt%, and oxidizing gas bubbles are intermixed to be used as an oxidizing agent. Note that if the cleaning solution temperature is allowed to increase beyond 80°C, this will cause uneven cleaning such that pits may form on the silicon wafer surface after the heat treatment is conducted. Therefore, the preferred maximum temperature is 80°C.

In order to intermix the oxidizing gas bubbles within the cleaning solution, it is possible to use a means that is already well-known, such as inserting a gas introduction tube into the cleaning tank or installing gas jets along the bottom of the cleaning tank such that the gas is allowed to bubble into the tank.

Based on this invention, there is an electrochemical coupling between the anodic dissolution reaction of the silicon that occurs between the silicon and fluorine ions, and the cathodic reaction that is caused by the oxidizing agent, resulting in a movement of the corrosion potential to the anode side. This makes it easy to remove the metallic contaminants from the silicon wafer surface.

Passive membranes comprised of silicon oxides are either chemically or electrochemically dissolved within the highly acidic aqueous solution containing fluorine ions that fall within the scope of the method discussed in this invention. Due to the fact that this will cause stripping of the silicon wafer surface, it is necessary to add a certain amount of oxidizing agent, and when the corrosion potential moves to the anode side, the metal contaminants are easily removed from the wafer surface.

Note that according to the method described in this invention, substances other than those noted above as components of the cleaning solution may also be added without causing a loss of cleaning capability. Examples include salt types such as ammonium fluoride, etc.

In addition, according to the method of this invention, it is also acceptable to use prior well-known forms of cleaning methods in conjunction with this method. As an example, for greater effect, cleaning can be conducted using a mixed solution of ammonia and hydrogen peroxide, followed by another cleaning in which a diluted fluorine aqueous solution is used, after which cleaning is finally conducted using the method of this invention.

Embodiments

<1> Embodiment for Claim 1

The surfaces of silicon wafers are contaminated with the following: approx. 270 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Cr, approx. 240 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Cu, approx. 2230 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Fe, and approx. 313 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Ni. These wafers are then dipped into the various cleaning solutions listed in Table 1, which provides the results for each cleaning. Immediately after cleaning, the silicon wafers are cleaned twice for at least five minutes each under ultrapure running water, after which they are spun dry and an analysis is conducted to determine the level of metallic contamination on the surface.

During the analysis, chemical etching using a concentrated fluorine and nitric acid solution is applied to dissolve a 1 μ m surface layer, after which the metallic element concentration within this solution is measured using a frameless atomic absorption photometry analysis method. Note that ND indicates a level that falls below the lower limit for analytical determination. Also note that Cr is less than 0.1 x 10^{10} atoms/cm², Cu and Fe are less than 0.2×10^{10} atoms/cm², and Ni is less than 2.0×10^{10} atoms/cm².

The minute particles on the wafer surface are measured using a wafer surface particulate measuring device, and those wafers showing 10 particulates per wafer or less are indicated with an O, whereas those showing more than 10 particulates per wafer are indicated with an X.

In addition, a visual judgment is made as to whether the wafer surfaces after cleaning are hydrophobic or hydrophilic. Those that are hydrophobic are indicated with an O, those that are slightly hydrophobic are marked with a Δ , and those that are hydrophilic are marked with an X. A hydrophobic surface indicates that a silicon oxide, namely and oxide layer, does not exist on the silicon wafer surface.

An optical microscope is then used in order to observe whether or not there are any pitting defects along the wafer surface, and the findings are included in the table. The absence of pits indicates that the etching amount is appropriate, such that the wafer has an extremely smooth mirror surface.

In Table 1, Comparison Examples 1 and 15 show that the residual amounts of Fe and Cu are particularly high due to the low levels of hydrogen fluoride during cleaning. In the same fashion, Comparison Examples 6 and 14 show a high occurrence of pitting as well as residual minute particle contamination due to the fact that the hydrogen fluoride levels are too high. Pitting defects also occur in the cases of Comparison Examples 19 and 20 due to the fact that the nitric oxide levels are too high.

Prior Art Example No. 21 in which the Slight Etch cleaning method is applied uses an aqueous solution that has 60 wt% of HNO3 and 0.1 wt% of HF, but the removal effect is low with regard to Fe. Prior Art Example No. 22 in which the Ammonia Hydrogen Peroxide cleaning method is applied uses an aqueous solution that has 4.1 wt% of NH₃ and 4.4 wt% of H₂O₂, and among the various cleaning methods, this one has the lowest removal effect with regard to metallic contaminants, especially in the case of Fe. Prior Art Example No. 23 in which the Chlorine Hydrogen Peroxide cleaning method is applied uses an aqueous solution that has 5.1 wt% of HCl and 4.4 wt% of H₂O₂, and although this method is currently the most widely used due to its metallic contaminant removal effect, it still has a low removal effect with regard to Fe when compared to the examples given for this invention.

Example (1) of this invention shows a significant reduction in both minute particle contaminants as well as metallic contaminants, with no evidence of pitting defects on the surface after cleaning. Furthermore, the

surface is shown to be hydrophobic after cleaning, with no existence of an oxide film. This means that the type of recontamination that occurs when cleaning is performed in such a way that an oxide film is formed during cleaning and metallic contaminants within the cleaning solution are allowed to become embedded within the oxide film has not occurred in the case of Example 1 of this invention.

<2> Embodiments for Claims 2 and 3

The surfaces of silicon wafers are contaminated with the following: approx. 18 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Cr, approx. 110 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Cu, approx. 110 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Fe, and approx. 21 x 10¹⁰ atoms/cm² of Ni. These wafers are then dipped into the various cleaning solutions listed in Table 2, which provides the results for each cleaning. The cleaned wafers then undergo the same procedures as noted in Embodiment <1> with regard to water rinsing and drying, followed by an analysis of the metallic contaminants, measurements regarding minute particle contaminants, and observations of pitting defects. The results are shown in Table 2.

Examples (2) and (3) of this invention, which are the respective embodiments of Claims (2) and (3) of this invention, show that the levels of metallic contaminants and minute particle contaminants are drastically reduced, with no evidence of pitting defects.

Due to the low levels of hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen peroxide used during cleaning in the case of Comparison Example No. 8, as well as the low level of hydrogen fluoride used during cleaning in the case of Comparison Example No. 9, both of these examples show high residual amounts of Cr, Cu, and Fe. In the case of Comparison Example No. 15, the low level of oxidizing agent used during cleaning results in high residual amounts of Cr, Cu, and Fe. Also, as shown in Comparison Examples No. 16, No. 17, and No. 18, excessive amounts of hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen peroxide result in the appearance of pitting defects as well as an increase in the level of minute particle contaminants.

Table 1

			Third	Clean-		Heavy	metal co	ntaminat	ion on				
	HNO ₃	HF	Com-	ing	Sol.			er cleanir		Surface		Min.	
No.	· .		po-	Time	Temp.		(x 10 ¹⁰ at	oms/cm²)	· ·	After	Pitting	Part.	Class.
	(%)	(%)	nent '	(sec.)	(°C)					Cleaning	Defects	Cont.	[
:	1.4		(NH₄F)			Cr	Cu ·	Fe	Ni				
01	0.50	0.05	None	300	25	61	2.3	23	ND	X	None	0	CE
02	0.10	0.10	None	300	25	2.4	20	15	ND	Δ	None	0	CE
03	0.50	5.00	None.	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
04	0.50	10.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
05	0.50	20.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
06	0.50	30.0	None	300	25 .	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	Yes	X	CE
07	0.50	5.00	0.1%	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
08	0.50	5.00	None	300.	40	ND	ND	ND	ND	O	None	0	PE1
09	0.50	5.00	None	300	60	ND	ND	ND.	ND	0	None	0	PE1
10	0.50	5.00	None	300	80	ND	ND	ND	ND ·	0	None	0	PE1
1:1	15.0	0.10	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
12	15.0	0.10	0.1%	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1

						,			·					
· 13	3	15.0	20.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
14	<u>} </u>	15.0	30.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	Yes	X	CE
15		25.0	0.05	None	300	25	ND	1.8	3.3	ND	X	None	0	CE
16		25.0	0.10	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
17	'	25.0	5.00	None	300	25	ND	ND ND	ND.	ND	0	None	. 0	PE1
18	3 .	25.0	10.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	None	0	PE1
19		30.0	5.00	None	300	25	ND.	ND	ND	ND	0	Yes	0	CE
20		30.0	20.0	None	300	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	0	Yes	0	CE
21		Sligh	t Etch M	ethod	300	70	ND	2.8	34	ND	X	None	0	PAE
22		Amm	onia Hyd	lrogen	600	80	2.7	2.4	77	ND	X	None	0	PAE
<u> </u>	·	Per	oxide Me	thod			٠.							
23		Chlorine Hydrogen			600	- 80	ND	ND	15	ND	X	None	0	PAE
<u> </u>			oxide Me			·	<u> </u>							

[Translator's Note: In the Classification (Class.) column above, CE = Comparison Example; PE1 = Patent Example (1); PAE = Prior Art Example]

Table 2

·r	`, 			 	i					-				
			j ;	Oxidiz	Í					ontaminat				
				-	Third	Clean-				ter cleani			· ·	
4				ing	Com-	ing	Sol.		(x 10 ¹⁰ at	toms/cm ²)		Min.	ļ.
-	No.	HF	H_2O_2	Gas	po-	Time	Temp.		,	•		Pitting	Part.	Class.
				Com-						,		<u> </u>		1
٠		.(%)	(%)	posi-	nent	(sec.)	(°C)		· .	l .		Defects	Cont.	
1		, ,		tion				Cr	Fe .	Ni	Cu			
L				(%)										
L	01	0.05	1.00	None	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
_	02	0.51	0.10	None	'None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
- [03	0.10	2.01	None	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
·	04	0.50	0.12	None	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
	_05	1.05	0.11	None	None	360	25	ND	ND	ND	ND-	None	0	PE2
1	06	1.00	1.07	None	NH₄F	- 240	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	O	PE2
					0.10%	•				<u>_</u> .				
L	07	0.99	5.00	None	None	120	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
L	08	0.03	0.04	None	None	600	25	8.2	6.8	ND	5.3	None	0	CE
L	09	0.01	1.00	None	None	600	25	ND	.23.4	ND	12.4	None	0	CE .
·	10	0.10	0.20	None	None	600	40	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE2
L	11	0.05	None	Pure O ₂	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE3
	12	0.15	None.	80%O₂+ 20%Ar	None	6 <u>0</u> 0	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	0	PE3
	13	1.01	None	20%O ₂ +80%N ₂	NH₄F 0.10%	360	. 30	ND	ND	ND	· ND	None	· O	PE3
L	14	0.02	None	Pure O ₂	None	360	25	ND	45.8	ND	7.9	None	0	CE
L	15	0.15	0.01	None	None	600	25	ND	12.4	ND	8.4	None	0	CE
	16	11.0	2.05	None	None	600	25	ND .	ND	ND	ND	None	X	CE
L	17	5.95	10.2	None	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	Yes	О	CE
	18	11.2	None	Pure O ₂	None	600	25	ND	ND	ND	ND	Yes	Χ.	CE
	19	1.00	None	20%N ₂ O + 80%N ₂	None	600	30	ND	ND	ND	ND	None	.0	PE3

[Translator's Note: In the Classification (Class.) column above, CE = Comparison Example; PE2 = Patent Example (2); PE3 = Patent Example (3)]

Effect of the Invention

When a silicon wafer is cleaned using the method described in this invention, a highly pure silicon wafer can be obtained in which the levels of metallic contaminants and minute particle contaminants are significantly reduced. Furthermore, not only does this invention make it possible to avoid a drop in quality among silicon wafers, such as the occurrence of defects along the oxidation inductive lamination layer as well as a drop in lifetime, when these wafers are used in highly integrated devices such as IC, LSI, etc., it is also possible to prevent degradation of electrical properties in these devices.

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18日本国特許庁(JP)

10 特許出願公開

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砂発明の名称

シリコンウエハの洗浄方法

②特 願 平2-3386

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- し、差明の名称
- シリコンウェハの改歩方法
- 2.特許請求の範囲
- (1) クリコンウェハを沈浄するに関し、0.1 ~ 20 産量%の売化水果を含材し、かつ酸化剤として、 4.5~25 重量%の函数を含有する水溶液を洗涤液 とすることを特徴とするシリコンウェハの洗浄方 3
- (2) シリコンウェハを先移するに厳し、4.65~10 至量%の形化水器を合存し、かつ酸化剤として 6.05~10重量%の過酸化水器を含有する水解散を 洗棒機とすることを特徴とするシリコンウェハの 発序方法。
- (3)、シリコンウェハを洗浄するに戻し、0.05~10 重量%の易化水素を含有し、かつ酸化解として酸 化性ガスの気密を認入せしめた水溶液を洗浄酸と することを特像とするシリコンウェハの洗浄方 法。
- 3 . 発明の詳細な説明

産業上の利用分野

本発明は、シリコンウェハの変画を高哨降な状態にするための改修方法に関するものである。 従来の後編

近年, デバイスの高級硫化に停って、その基駅 となるシリコンウェハの表面をより一層振移化す ることが強く望まれている。

シリコンウェへの変関に、シリコン粒子や虚等の数粒子行換物質(パーティクルとも言われる)が存在すると、デバイス配線の前線やショートの類固となり、複琴金属等の金属系特殊物類があると、酸化調起被勝欠強の発生やライフタイムの低下といった問題が生じる。このため、これら特集物質を除去するための抗性が行われるが、発神の際に物策されることも避けなければならない。

要素のシリコンウェハの発達方法としては、 ① 希邦酸水溶液で洗浄する方法、②塩酸はたは硫酸と 酸と 過酸化水器との混合水溶液で洗浄する方法、 および ③ アンモニアと 函酵化水素の混合水溶液で 洗浄する方法が行われている。これら名複浄法で

特開平3-208900 (2)

使用される浅浄泉には、数粒子汚染物質や全属系 汚染物質を振力低減した高純度の薬品額や水が使 用されている。

従来の税序方法のうち、①はシリコンウェハ表面に置為10人程度の厚さで存在する自然酸化键を溶解する能力を有し、酸化酸中の金属系污染物質の除去効果は高いが、敬辱予汚染物質の低級は難しいという陶散がある。

のは塩酸または硝酸が持つ金属系汚染物質に対 する系容解能力を利用したものであるが、酸化酸 を溶解する能力がない。このため、酸化酸上の金 展系疫質物質を飲出する効果は高いが、酸化酸中 非酸化酸とシリコンの界面に存在する金属系汚染 物質を除出する効果は低い。

急はシリコン目身を増解する働きがあるため、 その上に存在する金属系行契物質を除出する効果 は高いが、塩基性の洗浄液中で生成するほ化膜は 洗浄液中の金属系汚染物質等を取り込み高いとい う性質があり、シリコンウェハが再行法される可 能性が高い。しかし、この方法は微粒子の絵去薄

したがって、スライトニッチ法でもシリコンクェ ハの高調節化にほ歴界があると言わざるを元な

幾明が解決しようとする疑問

本強明は、シリコンウェハを抜降するに取して、Pe等の会議系所染物質および微粒子所染物質を描めて低減し、酸化沸起線潜欠降の発生やライ

泉が高いため、ウェハナーカーやデバイスチーカーで広く利用されている。

また、上記従来法の問題点を解消する方法として、60恵登%の組織と 6.1型量%以下の赤化水来の混合水溶液中にクリコンケェハを投資して復移するステイトエッチ故と呼ばれる方法が提案されている。 (Ritus Takizova 5. "Estended Abstracts of Solid State Baylees and Materiots"、1988年、P.475)。

しかし、半速体用グレードと呼ばれる最高純度の耐酸でも、ppb オーダーまたはサブカPb オーダーの金銭系的策物質など定信程、Ca、Ca、Fe、K、Ba、221年が含まれているので、84重量がもの高濃度の角酸を含む流が減中の金減系均数物質の濃度は高く、また石英ガラス製の気が穏を使用すると石英ガラス中の金属不純物が辞出して、その確定はますまず為まる。

をして、高端波硝酸の強い酸化力でシリコンウェへの変弱に酸化酸が形成され、微移療中の金額系形染物質が酸化膜やに取り込まれ易くなる。

フタイムの低下といった品質問題がなく、かつデバイスにした場合の電気特性の労免もない高額特質のシリコンウェハを得ることを目的とする。 認題を解決するための手段および作用

水苑明の英旨はつぎのとおりである。

- (1) シリコンウェハを売掉するに難し、 6.1~26 重星%の弗化水果を合対し、かつ酸化類として 6.5~29 底量%の明酸を含有する水溶薬を洗浄液 とすることを特徴とするシリコンウェハの洗浄力 注。
- (2) シリコンウェハを沈知するに綴し、6.65~16 重量%の亦化水素を含有し、かつ酸化剤として 0.65~10重量%の過酸化水満を含有する水溶液を 佐持致とすることを特殊とするシリコンウェハの 秋戸方法。
- (4) シリコンウェハを洗浄するに限し、0.05~10 型量%の単化な異を含有し、かつ酸化剤として酸 化性ガスの気泡を収入せしめた水溶療を洗浄液と することを特徴とするシリコンウェハの洗浄方 法。

特際率3-208900 (3)

本発明法は、シリコンウェハを洗拍するに整 し、抗市城中の不納物を優力低減するために選胡 の縁越量を最小限に仰え、しかも気神能力に優れ た破を使用する。すなわち、太急男法は、必要最 小限の非常イオンを含む強敵性の水溶液に融化制 を加えて、シリコンウェハ表面の酵化賦を溶解す もとともにシリコンに対するエッチング能を制 たせることにより、PL 等の金属系列及物質を効果 的に飲金するものであり、酸化剤を使用し、結構 (1) においては必要最小限の過酸化水素を使用す し、は本項(3) においては酸化性ガスを使用す も、は本項(3) においては酸化性ガスを使用す も、

本発明法において、 税券款中の赤化水業、 労機 および過酸化水素の速度は、それぞれ IP、 BHO3、 および Bi Ocとしての重見分である、 海水項(3) に おいては、酸化性ガスとして酸素および亜酸化 業 (一般化二窒素) 等を含むガスを使用すること ができる。また、 溶焼としては熔純水を使用する。

調でかつ過酸化水素が4.05%量%火燥だと、金属系汚染物質の除出効果が不充分である。身化水素の確度を増して10無最%を越えると、シリコンウェハの表面に散粒子形染物質が増加する傾向が認められる。また過酸化水素の濃度を増して18億分と続えると、シリコン変面のエッチング最が多次になってウェハ表面が貫れて参った状態になる。そして、非化水来が10重量%以下では、実例から収入する不能物の過度は変質上簡明ない。

したがって、弗化水麦の高酸を0.65~10重量分、 過酸化水果の濃度を0.05~10重量分とした。 年 お、洗浄温度については、80℃を越えると洗浄む らが生じて無処理後のシリコンウェへ装面にピッ ト状ケ縄を減起するおそれがあるので、80℃以下 とするのが望ましい。

請求與(1) において、発化水変が G.1 医風光水 調でかつ消散が 6.5 重量が未満だと、金属系形染 物質の快去効果が不必分である。発化水素の複変 を増して26 重量がを越えると、シリコンウェハの 表のに散吐子行染物質が増加する傾向が認められ る。また消散の環境を増して25重量%を超える と、シリコン表面のエッチング最が過大になって ウェハ表面が変れて乗った状態になる。そして、 界化水素が20重量%以下でかつ消蝕が25重量%以 下では、裏期から超入する不動物の機能は変質上 問題ない。

したがって、外化水素の接戻を 6.1~26敗最%、 例数の譲废を 0.5~25虫最多とした。なお、洗粋 温度については、必要以上に高温にすると夢化水 薬および水の蒸気や消費の蒸発分解が促進されて 洗浄液の組成が太発明の範囲から外れるおそれが あり、さらに昇温に時間がかかり作業性を等しく 治なうようになるので、30℃以下とするのが望ま しい。

請求項(2)において、弗化水素が8.05重量%来

ンウェハの変態に教粒子病集物質が増加するとともにエッチング量が過去になってウェハ表態が荒れる。そして、鬼化水実が10番量が以下では温剤から編入する不純物の譲渡は実費上問題なく、また酸化性ガスは不純物譲渡の振めて低い高純度のものが比較的容易に得られるので問題ない。

したがって、現化水害の勘察を9.05~10種最が とし、酸化剤として酸化性ガスの気液を凝入せし めることとした。なお、技体温度については、 88 でを越えると抗神むらが生じて無処理後のシリ コンウェハ表面にピット状欠陥を誘起するおそれ があるので、88 で以下とするのが望ましい。

洗浄 故に酸化性ガスの気制を高入せしめるには、洗浄 徳内にガス導入管を入れてパブリングさせるか、あるいは洗浄 増の底部にガス吸出孔を設けてパブリングさせる等の公知の手段を採用することができる。

本発明法によれば、シリコンと形楽イオンとの 脚に生じるシリコンのアノード溶解反応と、酸化 別の起こすカソード反応とが電気化学的にカップ

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ルして決められる資金電位がアノード側になるので、シリコンウェバ表面の金属系形染物質が除去されやすい。

北発明法の範囲の参男イオンを含む強敵性の水 常蔵中ではシリコン酸化物からなる不均態収穫が 化学的または電気化学的に溶解し、シリコンウェ ハ表面が視の状態になるため、酸化解が必要量率 知されて腐食電位がアノード側になるとウェハ表 面の食成系形象物質が容易に除去される。

なお、木変明点において、挽物液の成分として 上記以外のもの例えば水化アンモニウム等の場像 を洗浄液に抵加したとしても表浄能力が損なわれ ることがない。

さらに、本発明法において、使来公知の秩序法 と組み合わせて行ってもよい。例えばアンモニア と過酸化水素の退合水溶液で洗浄し、さらに効果 酸水溶液で洗浄した後、本発明法により洗浄する とより効果的である。

定施例

[1] 請求項()) の実施例

水性であるかを巨視により科定し、疎水性であるものを〇印、やや疎水性であるものを△印、根本性であるものを×印で表示した。 疎水性であれば シリコンウェハの表面にはシリコンの酸化物すな わち酸化酸が存在しないことを示す。

さらに、光学粉放棄によりウェハ表面のピット 状欠略の有無を観察して表示した。 ピット状欠陥 なしは、エッチング量が過正で極めて平滑な放倒 状態の表面を存していることを示している。

第1表において、比較例の間の1.15まびNo.15 は 免化水素が少ないため物にFeむよびGaの残存量が 多く、関じくNo.8がよびNo.14 は悪化水素が多す ざるためピット状欠陥が生じるとともに観粒子符 決物質が致存した。また、比較例のNo.19 および No.26 は発酸が多すざるためピット状欠陥が生じ た。

提来例の#6.21 スライトエッチ技は##G : 69重量第、HF:0.1重量知の本溶液で競棒したものであるがFeの除去効果が低い。#6.22 アンモニア過酸化水果法は #86:4.1重量%、B₂O:4.4重量%の水

的 270×10⁵⁰ atoms/cm² のCr、的 240×10⁵⁰ atoms/cm² のCr、約 2230×10⁵⁰ atoms/cm² のPsおよび約 313×10⁵⁰ atoms/cm² のFiにより表面が行為されたシリコンウェハを、第1表に示す各種洗浄症に試験して洗浄した結果を同変に示す。洗浄後のシリコンウェハは、直ちに無能ホ中で5分間以上の表水水機を2回行い、スピンドライヤーにより能減した後、表面の汚染金属の分析に共した。

分析は、視券的政務域によりシリコンフェハの 変層 1 mmを化学エッチングして容解し、被溶解 銀中の会話元素製度をフレーAレス原子吸光光度 分析法により定量した。なお、液中の形は分析定 是下吸以下であることを示し、Crit 9.1×10⁸⁰ atoms/cm² 未満、CuおよびFeは 9.2×10⁸⁴ aioms/cm² 未満、Niは 2.0×10⁸⁰ atoms/cm² 未満である。

ウェハ表面の数粒子は、ウェハ表面模粒子計類 製費により制定し、18個/ウェハ以下を〇円、 10個/ウェハ級を×印で表示した。

また、洗浄後のウェハ表面が疎水池であるか観

府被で洗浄したものであるが、名種洗燥法の中で最も金属系門築物質の飲去効果が低く、特に5eの飲去効果が低く、特に5eの飲去効果が低い。No.28 塩酸油酸化水类法は ECE 15.1 重量%、及Co.14.4 重量%の水溶液で洗浄したものであり、全属系門架物質除去のために現在最も多用されている洗浄法であるが、水発明例に比べて特に5eの飲去効果が低い。

太是明例(!) は、何れもシリコンウェハ表面の 型粒子汚染物質および金属系汚染物質が緩めて低 減され、発酵後の変面にピット状欠勝もない。ま た発酵後の変面には酸化膠が存在せず、現本性の 変面状態になっている。これは、乳粉中に酸化銀 が形成されてその中に裁浄度中の金属系汚染物型 が取り込まれるという洗浄による浮汚染が、本発 明例(!) では生じていないことを意味する。 [2] 請次項(2) および禁ま項(3) の実施例

約18×10 to a tans/on 2 の Gr. 約 118×19 to a tous/cn 2 の Gu. 約 110×10 tous/cn 2 の Feおよび 約21×10 to a tous/cn 2 の Miにより表面が行換されたシリコンウェハモ、第2次に示す各種洗浄

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液に投破して独物した結果も阿袞に流す。 沈沙後のシリコンウェハは突旋例(I) と同様に水洗乾燥し、金属茶汚染物質の分析、飲粒子汚染物質の器 足およびピット状火路の観点を行った。その結果 を終2表に示す。

本発明の請求項(2) の実施例である本発明例 (2) および請求項(3) の実施例である太免明例 (3) は、何れも金属英汚染物質および散粒子汚染 物質が極めて候談され、かつピット状欠陥もない。

比較例のNo.8は形化水素および過酸化水素が少ないため、また比較例のNo.9は現化水素が少ないためGr. Cq. Feの残容量が多か。比較例のNo.15 は酸化剂の量が少ないためGr. Cq. Feの残容量が多か。また、比較例のNo.16、No.17、No.16 のように先化水果や過酸化水素の量が多すずると、ピット状欠陥が現れたり敬頼子汚染物質が増加したりする。

新 1 表

x,	nnos.	ЦF	施成	三分	佐 券 時 甜	B B	抜神 (X	使の妄 ! ^{p lo} e lo	四芳朵 Das/ca	至金属	茂净袋	271	教验子	区分
	(\$)	(\$)	(A)	i ₄ F)	(#)	(%)	Cr	C4	Fe	iK	の安函	状灰脑	污染	
91	6.50	0.05	#	し	200	25.	81	2.8	23	KD.	×	# L	0	比較例
02	0.10	0.10	2	・レ	300	25	2.4	26	15	MD	4	# L	0	比較例
93	8.50	5.0e	4	L	300	25	KD	NĐ	MĎ)/B	0	# L	•	太吳明伊王
54	0.50	10.0	*	L	384	25	ND.	ND	K9	NB	0	# L	O	本発明例1
85	8.50	20.3	*	Ļ	300	25	18D	MD	118	ND	0	なし	٥	水差明例1
. 68	8.50	39.8	*	٦Ĺ.	306	25	WD	60	KB	ND .	0	B 13	×	比較例
07	0.58	5.09	0.	14	200	25	KĐ	MB .	10	10	0	# L	0	木兔馬例1
08	0.50	5.00	#	Ŀ	300	- 40	X9	#0	ХĐ	30	•	# L	0	木克男例.1
99	0.50	5.09	*	Ļ	390	60	XĐ	ND.	ND.	Ma	0	, th.	Q .	木角明例 1
10	8.50	B. BO	小女	Ļ	300	80	ND .	NĐ	# 0	NO	0	ねし	٥	木类明例1
! 1	15.6	5.10	22	L	300	25	ND	HD	V O	.ND	0	RU	•	本発明例1
12	15.0	9.16	0.	12	360	25 -	MB	1D	· NO	ЖÜ	0	なし	0	水兒男佣1
18	15.0	20.0	42	Ü	304	25	68	JAD	19	MD	0	ホ し	٥.	本発明例 1
14	15.0	30.0	4:	L	104	25	¥B	HO.	HD.	NS	0	あり	×	比較例
15	25.0	9.05	*	L	300	25	ND	1.8	3,3	nD .	×	なし	0	比較例
36	. 25.0	Q. 10	**	Ļ	360	25	MD	NĐ	W.D	MÐ	0	な レ	. •	木超明例 1
17	25.0	5-60	*	L	398	25	10	110	MB	·ND	0	な し	0	水遊明例 1
18	25.0	19.0	•	L	300	25	jeD	MB	NB	MD	0	なし	0	本発明的注
19	30.0	5.G0	*	니	300	25 .	M2	8 5	NB	. ND	0	b 9	0	比較例
20	39.0	20.0	*	4	306	25	100	10	HD	MO	0	b 9	0	比較的
21	スタイト	エッチと	4		309	76	ND .	2.8	34	146	×	8 L	0	夜楽佛
22	アンモニ	ア退鉄化	水素	拔	860	88	2.7	2.4	77	HD	×	* L	0	贷米例
28.	塔爾港區	化水果装	ŧ .		600	80	MD	, ITC	15	NO.	· ×	# L	0	使契例
				1		1		, ,	Į.		1		1	

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第 2 表

#o	lie H³O 5		館化性ガス の組成 (も)	第三成分	选 沙 圆			洗净收表面集金属 (×18 ⁵⁰ etoss/cm²)				,	聚粒子	区分
	(1)	(\$)	(\$)		(sec)	(3)	Ēτ	Fe) i	C _t			秀英	
6 J	6.85	1.00	* U	なし	800	25	#D	ND	#D	MĐ	4	L	0	太苑明例(2)
02	6.51	0.10	なし	なし	608	25	*D	ND	MB	. NO	4	· L	٥	本竞男例(2)
63	0.10	2.01	ar L	なし	600	25	מא.	ИÜ	₩D.	ND	4	L		本発明劑(2)
81	0.58	0.12	26	なし	590	25	DIL	B	60 0	OM	#	L.	0	本竞明册(2)
65	1.05	0.11	· # i.	なし	380	25	פא	MD	W8	MD	*	L	O	未免明例(2)
08	1-00	1.67	αι	MB.F 0.10%	240	25	EN	MO	HĎ	MD	42	L	•	本差明例(2)
07	6.99	5.08	αL	なし、	120	25	MD	MD	ЖD	ND	#	L	. 0	本発明例(2)
98	0.63	8.04	æυ	なし	606	25	\$.2	6.8	ЖO	5.3	#	ւ	0	比較例
69	0.01	1.00	なし	2 0	600	25	13.2	23.4	MD	12.4	72	ı	0	比較例
10	9.10	0.29	æι	# L	600	49	¥O	ND	MD.	119	A	ı	0	本処明例(2)
11	9.45	本し	pare O2	&L	600	25	מג	NB.	ND	MB	#	ı	0	本発明例(3)
12	0.15	まし	80202-202AT	al	600	25	מא	MB	ND.	HO	~	L	0	太克明例(3)
13	7.01	Az L	26302+893N2	NE ₄ F 0.10%	380	30	KD	MĐ)D	ND .	本	ı	0	太茹明例(3)
14	8-02	Æ . ₺	pure O2	な し	\$80.	- 25	5.8	45.8	MB	7.9	本	L	. 0	比較例
15	0.15	0.01	≄ί	***	600	25	6.8	12.4	, ND	6.4	A .	レ	0	此晚何
18	11.0	2.05	なし	なし	600	25	ng en	MĐ	N9	MD	4	L	×	比較例
17	5.85	10.2	#L	☆ L	600	. 25	MB	MD	m9	MD .	あ	ñ	0	昆紋例
19	11.2	# L	bete 03	なし	669	. 52	MD	WĐ	-169	ЖO	*>	ij	×	比較例
19	1.60	なし	202N ₂ G+882N ₂	なし	B 0 8	30	KĐ	MD	#Đ	CN.	*	し	0	太是明例(2)

発明の効果

本発明法によりシリコンウェハを洗浄すると、 金紹系汚染物質および敷粒子汚染物質がともに めて低減された高病神度のシリコンウェハが得ら れ、酸化請怠炫器欠陥の発生やライフタイムの係 下といったシリコンウェハの品質低下が回避され るとともに、ICや LSIなどの高級積化したデバイ メに使用した場合の電気特性劣化のおそれも回避 される。

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